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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

February 9, 2000
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Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

00V-127.002 (21)

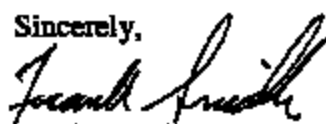
Re: PART 573 Defect Report, Bendix® Trailer System-Guard™ air dryer recall No. 00E-002.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Attached is a Part 573 Defect Report for semi-trailers manufactured by Wabash National. This is our only filing for this since the component supplier, Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, will be conducting the recall program. If any additional information is needed please contact me at the address below or by phone at 765-771-5440 or 765-771-5385 (fax).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Frank Smidler
Director of Engineering

cc: Mr. Jon White
Chief, Recall Analysis Division
Fax 202-366-7882

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On January 24, 2000, Wabash National was informed by the Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems division of Honeywell Corp. that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in an original equipment component that they supplied for use in semi-trailers we built. Bendix stated that they will be conducting the recall under NHTSA recall No. 00E-002 and will file the quarterly reports. We have provided Bendix with the information on the one customer and 42 trailers affected. This is our notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was Prepared: February 9, 2000

Manufacturer's identification code for this recall: Recall 2000-2

Manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled:

Wabash National Corporation
P.O. Box 6129
Lafayette, IN 47903

Contact corporate officer:

Rod Ehrlich, Vice-President of Engineering
765-771-5440
765-771-5385 Fax

Report prepared by:

Frank Smidler, Director of Engineering
765-771-5440
765-771-5385 Fax

Signature:


Frank Smidler

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

The recalled trailers can not be segregated by a model number. The trailers were identified by the call out of the Bendix® Trailer System-Guard™ air dryer on Work Orders used to build the trailers. They are:

Order No.	Qty	VIN	Customer
PC 16185	19	649865 thru 649883	Coca-Cola
PC 16186	19	649885 thru 649903	Coca-Cola
PC 16187	4	649905 thru 649908	Coca-Cola

The VIN range listed above is the unique last 6 characters of the 17 character Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). The 17 character VIN of all these units will begin with the Wabash World Identifier as the first three characters, 1JJ.

II. Identify the Recall Population

Total Number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect: 42

Approximate percentage of vehicles recalled containing the defect: 100%

The Work Orders requiring the installation of the Bendix® Trailer System-Guard™ air dryer identified the recall population of trailers.

III. Description of the Defect

The defect is that the retaining bolts for the reed valve covers on either end of the Trailer System-Guard air dryer may crack, causing the bolt heads to come off. This condition may allow the reed valve cover to come off and the reed valve to become disengaged.

If the control side reed cover comes off, brake application air can leak out at the Trailer System-Guard air dryer and normal trailer service braking may be lost. If this brake application is sustained by the operator, air may continue to leak out through the Trailer System-Guard. This condition could result in a low air warning buzzer and, eventually, the trailer parking brakes coming to full apply.

If the service side reed valve cover comes off, air can leak out of the trailer system and the trailer parking brakes can be engaged without warning.

Normal tractor service braking is not affected by either one of the above-described conditions.

IV. Chronology in Determining Defect

January 24, 2000 – Notified of voluntary recall by Bendix with request for list of customers and trailers that received the air dryer.

V. Identify the Remedy

The remedy was determined by Bendix and will be provided to NHTSA in their filing and to the end user by recall notification. The remedy includes replacement of the air dryer with a new design.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

The recall schedule will be determined by Bendix and will be provided to NHTSA in their filing.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

Bendix will provide the Recall Notice to the end customer.